



**File Code:** 1950

**Date:** February 12, 2009

Dear Friends of Chugach National Forest:

The Chugach National Forest, Seward Ranger District is preparing an Environmental Analysis (EA) for The Hope Gate 1 Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project. This notice is for a 30-day opportunity to comment on the project. The comment period ends 30 days after the date of the first publication of this notice in the Anchorage Daily News newspaper.

**Location:**

Chugach National Forest near Hope and Sunrise Alaska.

**Proposed Action:**

The proposed action would reduce hazardous fuels on the Chugach National Forest in the Hope-Sunrise-Summit Lake Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

Specific actions include the removal of dead, dying, and unhealthy trees and burn residual slash to reduce the existing fuel loads on about 900 acres of National Forest System Lands near the communities of Hope and Sunrise.

**Purpose and Need for Action:**

The purpose of this initiative is to reduce hazardous fuels near Hope, Alaska. This action is needed because a spruce bark beetle infestation on the Kenai Peninsula has resulted in vast amounts of dead and dying spruce trees, especially near the town of Hope, resulting in increased risk of wildfire. This action responds to the goals and objectives outlined in the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), and helps move the project area towards desired conditions described in that plan.

**Decision to Be Made and the Responsible Official:**

The project's Responsible Official is Seward District Ranger, Travis Moseley. Additional information may also be obtained from Nichole Longfellow at the Seward Ranger District.

**Scoping and Public Involvement**

The Chugach National Forest values your participation in this planning process and encourages you to submit your comments, concerns, and any information you may have about this project. Your comments will help us determine the appropriate scope of environmental analysis to conduct. Comments submitted will become part of the public record. The proposed action will be made available for public review and comment for 30 days after the date of the first publication of this notice in the Anchorage Daily News.



Hope Gate 1 Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project  
Seward Ranger District  
February 2009

**Public Meeting**

A public meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2009 at the Hope Social Hall from 4-6 p.m. as part of the public review of this project. Representatives from the Seward Ranger District will be available at that time to describe the project, answer questions, and accept comments on the proposed activities.

**How to Submit Comments**

Individuals or organizations wishing to comment must provide the following information as part of their comments:

- Name and address.
- Title of the proposed action.
- Site-specific comments on the proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision.
- Signature or other identity verification upon request. Identification of the individual or organization authoring the comment(s) is necessary for appeal eligibility.

Comments must be postmarked or received within 30-calendar days following the date of publication of a legal notice in the Anchorage Daily News newspaper, Anchorage, Alaska. If the time period expires on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, comments shall be accepted until the end of the next Federal working day. Comments must be postmarked or received during this time period.

- Written comments can be mailed to: **Travis Moseley, Seward District Ranger, Chugach National Forest, 334 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., P.O. Box 390, Seward, AK 99664**
- Oral or hand-delivered comments must be received at the Responsible Official's Seward Ranger District Office in Seward, Alaska during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Submit phoned comments at (907) 224-3374 and identify the purpose of your call. The receptionist will connect you with someone who will document your comments.
- Written comments may be sent by facsimile to: (907) 224-3268
- Send electronic comments in a common digital format to: [nlongfellow@fs.fed.us](mailto:nlongfellow@fs.fed.us).

**Comments submitted will become part of the Public Record**

**Additional Information:** Contact Nichole Longfellow, Fuels Specialist, at the above address, or by email at [nlongfellow@fs.fed.us](mailto:nlongfellow@fs.fed.us), or by calling (907) 288-7734.

Sincerely,

Karen Kromrey  
Acting District Ranger